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In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A DC driver circuit coupled to a tip/ring line, said DC driver circuit comprising:

 a first capacitor coupled to a first switch, said first switch coupled to an amplification circuit, said amplification circuit being coupled to said tip/ring line;

 an RC circuit coupled to a second switch, said second switch coupled to said amplification circuit, said RC circuit comprising a second capacitor and at least one resistor:

 said first switch being closed and said second switch being closed during a make state to cause said amplification circuit to draw current from said tip/ring line;

 said first switch being open and said second switch being open during a break state to prevent said amplification circuit from drawing current from said tip/ring line;

wherein said RC circuit, said first switch, and said amplification circuit share a common node such that a rate of discharge of a voltage at said common node is controlled by changing at least one value of said second capacitor and said at least one resistor, thereby changing a rate at which a DC loop current at said tip/ring line changes.

Claim 2 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 further comprising a third switch having a first terminal coupled to a voltage source and a second terminal coupled

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to said first capacitor, said third switch being closed during said break state to precharge said first capacitor.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 wherein ~~said RC circuit comprises a second capacitor, said second capacitor having has~~ a first terminal coupled to said amplification circuit and a second terminal coupled to ground.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The DC driver circuit of claim 3 wherein ~~said first capacitor is greater than said second capacitor~~ said first capacitor has a first capacitance value that is substantially greater than a second capacitance value of said second capacitor.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 wherein a resistor of said RC circuit comprises a resistor, said resistor having has a first terminal coupled to said amplification circuit and a second terminal coupled to ground.

Claim 6 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 wherein said amplification circuit comprises an op amp coupled to a first transistor.

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Claim 7 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 wherein said amplification circuit comprises an op amp coupled to a first transistor, said first transistor being coupled to a second transistor.

Claim 8 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 6 wherein said first transistor is coupled to said tip/ring line, wherein said first transistor is caused to draw current from said tip/ring line in said make state, and wherein said first transistor is prevented from drawing current from said tip/ring line in said break state.

Claim 9 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 7 wherein said first and second transistors are coupled to said tip/ring line, wherein said first and second transistors are caused to draw current from said tip/ring line in said make state, and wherein said first and second transistors are prevented from drawing current from said tip/ring line in said break state.

Claim 10 (original): The DC driver circuit of claim 1 wherein said tip/ring line is coupled to a modem.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A circuit for reducing a peak voltage at a selected line, said circuit comprising:

at least one transistor driving said selected line;

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said at least one transistor being driven by a first capacitor when said circuit is in a make state;

said at least one transistor being driven by an RC circuit when said circuit is in a break state, said RC circuit comprising a second capacitor and at least one resistor; said RC circuit reducing said peak voltage at said selected line when said circuit transitions from said make state to said break state;

wherein said RC circuit, a first switch, and an amplification circuit share a common node such that a rate of discharge of a voltage at said common node is controlled by changing at least one value of said second capacitor and said at least one resistor, thereby changing a rate at which a DC loop current at said selected line changes.

Claim 12 (original): The circuit of claim 11 wherein said selected line is a tip/ring line.

Claim 13 (original): The circuit of claim 11 wherein said at least one transistor is driven by an op amp.

Claim 14 (original): The circuit of claim 13 wherein said op amp is driven by said first capacitor when said circuit is in said make state.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 11 wherein [a] said first switch causes said at least one transistor to be driven by said first capacitor when said circuit is in said make state.

Claim 16 (original): The circuit of claim 15 wherein a second switch causes said at least one transistor to be driven by said RC circuit when said circuit is in said break state.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 13 wherein ~~said RC circuit comprises a second capacitor~~, said second capacitor ~~having~~ has a first terminal coupled to said op amp and a second terminal coupled to ground.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 17 wherein ~~said first capacitor is greater than said second capacitor~~ said first capacitor has a first capacitance value that is substantially greater than a second capacitance value of said second capacitor.

Claim 19 (original): The circuit of claim 16 further comprising a third switch having a first terminal coupled to a voltage source and a second terminal coupled to said first capacitor, said third switch being closed during said break state to precharge said first capacitor.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 13 wherein said at least one resistor of said RC circuit ~~comprises a resistor, said resistor having has~~ a first terminal coupled to said op amp and a second terminal coupled to ground.

Claim 21 (original): The circuit of claim 12 wherein said tip/ring line is coupled to a modem.